



DOE DIALOGUE | Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz

February 24, 2014

Get ready to grab your hat and read with the Cat in the Hat and myself on Monday, March 3, 2014 for the 17th annual "[Read Across America Day](#)". The Seussical celebration will kick off a week of reading across the nation as NEA members gather students, parents, and community members together to share their love of reading. Here is a link to my video about "[Read Across America Day](#)" and Dr. Seuss' birthday.

I thought I would share with you again this week the Update on Standards Review...

Please share the message below with your staff and patrons...

Public Law 286 was passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2013, which creates [Indiana Code 20-19-2-14.5](#) concerning the State Board of Education's responsibility to review Indiana's Academic Standards. This charge specifically mandates the State Board to develop college and career readiness standards compliant with state and federal requirements before July 1, 2014 and to hold public hearings on the proposed standards prior to adoption. Therefore, we would like to invite the public to attend a hearing in person if possible. The dates and locations are below.

Online public review will be live Thursday, February 20th and remain open until March 12th. Please go to the Indiana Department of Education at www.doe.in.gov to provide your commentary on the **draft set of English/Language Arts and Mathematics standards**.

Public Hearings

February 25, 2014 3:00PM - 7:00PM, Indiana State Libraryâ€”History Reference Roomâ€”315 W. Ohio St.â€”Indianapolis, IN 46202

February 26, 2014 3:00PM - 7:00PM, Plymouth High School â€”Weidner School of Inquiry Room NT 201â€”810 Randolph Driveâ€”Plymouth, IN 46563â€”Park in Lot 7, Enter through Door 7

Keep in touch. Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.

Sincerely,

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

Memorandum

MEMORANDUM: The National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs play a critical role in ensuring that America's children have access to the nutritious food they need to learn and succeed in the classroom. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is deeply troubled by a recent incident where meals were taken away from several elementary school children, allegedly due to outstanding balances on their school meal accounts. Fortunately, we believe this was an isolated incident. However, we believe that such an issue, should it arise again in the future, should be handled in a way that first and foremost respects and protects students from undue embarrassment and stigma. ([see entire letter](#))

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is concerned whenever circumstances beyond a child's control, such as not having money on hand or in their lunch account, prevent the child from receiving a regular school meal. Denying or taking food away from children is a form of punishment and stigmatizes children whose parents are behind on payments.

USDA is committed to working with States, LEAs, and advocacy groups to carry out Federal, State and local policies that protect the integrity of the child nutrition programs while helping to ensure that families and children are treated fairly and respectfully. A provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires USDA to conduct a study of the policies and practices of schools and districts for serving meals to students who are unable to pay. As a result, we will soon be issuing data from a national survey of about 1,500 school food authority directors. This information will provide us with a better understanding of the range of school policies in existence, including offering alternate meals; as well as the extent of lost revenues from unpaid meals. ([see entire letter from USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon](#))

MEMORANDUM: ACCUPLACER Diagnostics is the assessment selected to meet the requirements of [IC 20-32-9](#), which requires public and state-accredited nonpublic school students who meet specific criteria to take a college- and career-readiness exam and potentially receive remediation. Please see the [attached document](#) for three important updates regarding the implementation of ACCUPLACER Diagnostics. For further information contact for this program Amanda Culhan (aculhan@doe.in.gov), Dr. Leslie Fatum (lfatum@doe.in.gov), and Adam Mastrucci (amastrucci@doe.in.gov). ([see document](#))

MEMORANDUM: Earth Day, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is offering presentations to Hoosier classrooms this spring. The in-person presentations will provide students with examples of environmental careers while teaching them about our environment. Presentations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Each school may request up to four presentations (30-50 minutes each). Please allow time in-between presentations to set up for the next class. Grades Kindergarten through 6 are eligible for presentations. See the form below for more information.

Make your reservations by mailing, faxing or emailing the form below to: IDEM - Office of Planning and Assessment, 100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 1316, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or fax to (317) 233-5970 or email it to education@idem.in.gov by March 3. [Earth Day State Form 2014.docx](#)

MEMORANDUM: **March 24, 2014** is the deadline for application for the [Visiting Teachers from Spain Program](#) that provides Indiana school districts an opportunity to hire a highly qualified native Spanish speaker to teach Spanish at both elementary and secondary levels, some candidates are also licensed to teach French, German, ESL, Special Education and other subjects. The teachers can teach in Indiana schools for one to three years through the J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa Program sponsored by the Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC).

Cultural exchanges benefits all involved and the native speaker teachers are valuable resources for learning Spanish as a World Language or Heritage Language. There are currently 35 Visiting Teachers from Spain in schools throughout Indiana. Please find additional information at

http://issuu.com/spanishespanol/docs/pdf_b2a25f657b3d32 For more information for the 2014- 2015 school year contact Dr. Michele Moore at mmoore@ciesc.k12.in.us or Manuel Collazo at manuel.collazo@educacion.es

MEMORANDUM: Each year, Indiana high schools are asked to submit the total number of students who are expected to graduate with a Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma. The Indiana Department of Education uses this information to provide diploma seals and congratulatory letters to schools for each recipient. Please read [attachment](#) regarding criteria and ordering materials. To answer any questions contact Amanda Culhan at aculhan@doe.in.gov or (317) 232-0510 ([see attachment](#))

MEMORANDUM: Hoosier students of all ages can learn how to pay for education beyond high school as part of Learn More Indiana's annual "[Cash for College](#)" campaign. The effort kicks off statewide this week and continues through Indiana's March 10 deadline for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form qualifies students to receive financial aid from colleges, the State of Indiana, the federal government and other sources. "[Cash for College](#)" You can access Learn More Indiana's Cash for College website at CashForCollegeIndiana.org. The site offers a variety of helpful tips and free resources for K-12 students, current college students and returning adult students, including the Indiana College Costs Estimator. Learn how you can prepare to pay at CashForCollegeIndiana.org. For further information contact: Amber Audrain at (317) 464-4404 ext. 139 aaudrain@che.in.gov

Information From Other Agencies

Nick Vujicic, founder and President of "[Life Without Limbs](#)" and "Attitude is Altitude", is coming to Indiana this fall September 10th, 11th, and 12th to speak with high school students about bullying and other issues that impact their lives. Born without arms or legs, Nick's message of hope and victory is one that will resonate with both students and staff alike. Special live webcasts will be available to Indiana high schools during these three days. For more information contact Brad Henderson bhenderson@ninstarconnect.com or 317-232-2741

The NorthEast Central Educational Service Center, (NESC) is pleased to announce a series of professional development for teachers in grades K-12 to help support student learning. To register for these workshops, go to www.r8esc.k12.in.us and click on "Workshops." Participants need to bring a laptop or an iPad/tablet to the sessions. For more information or if you would like to register go to www.r8esc.k12.in.us . Contact Misty Gehres at 800-669-3010 or mgehres@r8esc.k12.in.us if you need additional information. ([see calendar](#))

Imperial Trans-Antarctic Centenary Expedition 2014 (ITACE), ITACE represents the 100th anniversary of [Sir Ernest Shackleton's](#) 1914-17 expedition, which intended to cross Antarctica for the first time. The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Centenary Expedition 2014 (ITACE 2014), honors the memory of the original expedition, by using Shackleton's intended route to complete his "unfinished business" with a team of four skiers - two men and two women - to cross the frozen continent on a 1,800-mile journey, beginning this October/November.

Shackleton's expedition, which departed London in 1914 on the vessel *Endurance*, was the first attempt at a crossing. Among the crew was an American named William Bakewell, of Joliet, Illinois. Knowing Shackleton would be partial to a subject of the British Empire, Bakewell posed as a Canadian, and joined the ship in Buenos Aires. Before reaching the intended landing spot in Antarctica, *Endurance* was crushed by the ice and sank, but everyone onboard survived and persevered during a seven-month struggle to reach civilization.

Teachers and students are introduced to the expedition through these links and can follow its progress:

- **ITACE website:** www.south2014.com
- **Segment by the.News (PBS):** http://www.pbs.org/newshour/thenews/foreducators/story.php?id=19660&package_id=3623
- **Library of Congress webcast:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c38rKHxAT2s>

IUPUI Art Exhibit "Continuing the Party" IUPUI's Cultural Arts Gallery are excited to announce a juried community art exhibit that will take place in May 2014. The theme of the exhibit is "[Continuing the Party](#)". This exhibit honors the women in our lives by carrying forth the theme of Judy Chicago's 1979 work, "The Dinner Party". The 1979 "Dinner Party" is a collaborative piece that focuses on 39 women/feminine presences who have impacted world events and belief systems throughout the ages. For this year's "Continuing the Party" exhibit, we are seeking artwork that celebrates the women in our lives - whether those women are spiritual presences, historical figures, cultural icons, or loved ones. We are also seeking artwork that celebrates individuals' ideas of "femininity" and "womanhood". We hope to receive hundreds of submissions, and we will be able to accommodate nearly a hundred of them in the actual gallery. Submissions will be judged by IUPUI and Indianapolis community member volunteers. For more information please contact us at ctp2014@iupui.edu or email Elizabeth Hallock at cagcc@iupui.edu ([see details](#))

Legislative Updates

Please find attached a [list of education](#) bills that are still alive during the second half of the legislative session. The [IDOE Facebook](#) and [Twitter pages](#) will continue to be updated throughout the legislative process.

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